

17 Feb 70

Roffman
Phila.

Dear Howard:

I am still quite busy and must write quickly regarding your 12 Feb. mail. Please excuse.

399: I doubt whether crimp has any but the most negligible effect on the stability of bullets like 399. Did not even think of it in reference to memo. The effect of the crimp is so slight that FMC bullets that have had the copper ~~xx~~ filed off the nose (to get a cheap version of a "soft-nose") often separate from the jacket inside the barrel during passage of the bullet. ~~Thatx~~ Say "sometimes", not "often". What I mean is that if a shooter files copper from the nose, he runs the risk of having the lead core separate from the jacket, and having the jacket lodged in the barrel after the bullet is fired. The shooter may not know of the separation and fire another round through the barrel before clearing it of the obstruction. Very dangerous. NRA and others who advise on firearms matters give specific and emphatic warning not to doctor military rounds. Anyway, this should indicate that the crimp has no bearing.

Sketch on p. 3 of memo is slightly exaggerated, but after all it was only a sketch and intended to illustrate the phenomenon, not to reproduce it exactly.

I do not ~~understand~~ understand how yor photo of bases vitiates what I say about cotton batting. The base on the left was fired through goat flesh, was it not? The two in the middle are Frazier's, fired through cotton. I see not ~~any~~ squashing of them. There is protrusion of lead from the jacjet, but no squashing.

No use arguing about the apparent difference between the base in your photo and Harold's, for the matter can be settled by observation--in time. I still disagree that there is a difference in the base, but we'll see.

Lifton: Harold noted reference to L in my recent letter to you. As I recall, it did not explain circumstances of my mentioning him to you. I'll have more to say of him later.

Still,

cc Weisberg

Dick